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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 830
By Hargrove

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Connie Frederick upon her singularly courageous performance during the recent tornado.

WHEREAS, on April 16, 1998, a tornado ferociously struck downtown Nashville, thereby creating a greater volume of rancid, destructive hot air than is usually found on Capitol Hill; and

WHEREAS, while most of the General Assembly was caught unaware by this natural force, which was more dangerous than the Senate Judiciary Committee, although not nearly as pompous or as long-winded, our valiant and intrepid Personnel Director, Connie Frederick truly rose to the occasion during this emergency and performed above and beyond the call of duty in a most courageous manner; and

WHEREAS, while many in the legislative complex assumed that the giant sucking sound made by the tornado was merely the Finance Committee's sucking up every available dollar for pork barrel projects, Mrs. Frederick astutely discerned that danger was imminently approaching, and like a modern-day Paul Revere, (although without the horse or lantern) she quickly traveled from office to office warning people, and even legislators, of their impending doom, as she shouted: "Auntie Em! Toto! It's a twister! It's a twister!"; and

WHEREAS, being no fools, (or at least some of them anyway) legislators and staff members soon realized they were not in Kansas anymore, and might not even be in Tennessee unless they alacritously headed for the hills, or rather the opposite thereof, to the bowels of the

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Legislative Plaza, which, as a result of the loss of electrical power, was blacker than a lobbyist's heart; and

WHEREAS, in the finest tradition of such Tennessee heroes as Sgt. Alvin C. York and Edward Carmack, Connie Frederick bravely rushed in where angels feared to tread (as if they could survive in this Machiavellian environment), checking each and every legislative office, and checking it twice, not to determine who was naughty or nice, but rather to ensure that all legislators and staff had removed themselves to safer environs, i.e. a place where broken glass was NOT flying around in all directions like Senator Ford driving on Interstate 40; and

WHEREAS, Connie Frederick has received the universal praise of legislators and staff alike for her noble and gallant performance on that fateful day, and has truly earned her new acronym "WMBEMA" (War Memorial Building Emergency Management Agency); and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Frederick has modestly downplayed her heroic actions, stating: "A tornado is nothing compared to dealing with rowdy twin boys and the godawful mess I usually deal with at work"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby pause to honor our most diligent and accomplished Personnel Director, Connie Frederick, on her courageous performance during the recent tornado and encourage her to have our broken windows replaced in a more expeditious manner, or else!

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an suitable copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Ms. Frederick in the most timely and ancient fashion.